

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

INSERT CLOCK: 7:05AM.

Grant marches through the door.

GRANT  
Alright, team... The News!

Grant looks to his team. Eliza and Bryce sit in the back corner twiddling their thumbs.

GRANT (CONT'D)  
Um... where is everybody?

Bryce shrugs. Eliza looks away.

GRANT (CONT'D)  
Okay! Well let's-- uh--

Grant looks to the door.

MATTHEW (O.S.)  
What do you expect me to do, go on set without bronzer like an animal?

Grant rolls his eyes and throws his hands up.

MATTHEW (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Well if Ferruccio isn't gonna do it then get Gazpacho, I can't believe this keeps happening to me!

Matthew enters.

MATTHEW (CONT'D)  
No, I have a stupid briefing now just--

Matthew hangs up the phone. Grant is glaring at him.

GRANT  
Look who showed up.

MATTHEW  
Well I'm sorry, but-

GRANT  
-sit.

Matthew makes a face. He sits.

GRANT (CONT'D)  
So, we've got some big news this week. East Campus Dining ran out of bananas.

(CONTINUED)

MATTHEW

Even after my viral online petition?

GRANT

Yeah.

(to Bryce)

Hey, where'd you get those?

Bryce has a backpack filled with several dozen bananas.

GRANT (CONT'D)

Okay, scratch that, uh, the school is still investing in fossil fuels, uh... we're gonna be bringing in some random students and showing them puppies-

MATTHEW

-awwww! Can I put that on my vlog?

GRANT

No.

Matthew sighs.

GRANT (CONT'D)

And, I found this patch of grass right next to Commonsense Ave that when you close your eyes, it actually kinda sounds like a beach!

Lana enters.

LANA

What's this?

GRANT

A briefing.

LANA

No no no no no-

Grant throws his hands up.

LANA (CONT'D)

You, silent kid, sit up here.

Lana points in Bryce and Eliza's general direction. They both look at each other confused.

LANA (CONT'D)

Now, ignore whatever he said, I have got the story for you. Lance Netter.

ELIZA

The Net?!

(CONTINUED)

LANA  
I got The Net.

Grant does a double take.

GRANT  
Who's The Net?

MATTHEW  
Lance "The Net" Netter, only the best  
lacrosse player in the history of KWU!  
He's coming on our show? Oh my god I  
gotta Tumblr this-

LANA  
-No you don't.

GRANT  
So this guy, he's-

LANA  
-Doing an interview in two hours, now  
Bryce, start setting up cameras, Eliza,  
start thinking of some witty banter, and  
Matthew-

The door SLAMS. Matthew has exited.

LANA (CONT'D)  
-uh... okay... well get moving!

Bryce, Eliza, and Lana exit. Karen squeezes her way past them  
and enters.

KAREN  
What's up?

GRANT  
Apparently Lana saved the show with some  
big interview.

KAREN  
How fun... who is it?

GRANT  
I don't know, some sports thing, just...  
let's go help them set up.

2. INT. STUDIO - DAY

MATTHEW and ELIZA are sitting at the news desk. Various CREW are also in the studio. Eliza is listening to Matthew lament about how unappreciated he is.

MATTHEW

-and then when I was trying to give Grant some advice because I've been in that situation before, he totally just brushed me off!

ELIZA

I'm sorry. That is really frustrating. M-m-maybe-

Matthew stands up from the desk to give his speech

MATTHEW

I just hate that no one takes me seriously! Is it too much to ask for a little appreciation? Am I not an important part of the group? Why am I even on this show if nobody cares about what I have to say?

ELIZA

Matthew, we're still learning how to work together as a team. Give it some time.

Matthew dramatically slams his hands on the table.

MATTHEW

(Whining)

But I have given it some time!

(Passionately again)

Besides, I have so much to offer! I'm funny, talented, intelligent, well read, have my own fan club- not to mention strikingly handsome. I am exactly what people think of when they hear the word talent! I don't understand why no one here sees that.

ELIZA

I'm really sorry. If it makes you feel better though I appreciate y-

MATTHEW

My sweet, sweet Eliza. It's loyal fans

like you that keep me going in my darkest moments. You make me feel like I really am important.

ELIZA

But you are important. The News wouldn't be The News without you. Without you, the team wouldn't be the same.

Matthew looks at Eliza and he gets a realization, his face lights up

MATTHEW

You know what? You're right. I am important and I will not stand for this kind of treatment.

(Pause)

In fact, I'm not coming back to the studio until I get the recognition I deserve! I'm leaving!

ELIZA

You're... leaving?

MATTHEW

(Standing up a little straighter)

Yes.

ELIZA

Okay. Um. Where are you going then?

MATTHEW

I'm.. going to.. My trailer!

ELIZA

Your trailer?

MATTHEW

Yes. If anyone needs me, which I doubt they will, I will be in my trailer sulking. Good bye everyone.

Eliza and the Crew, confused, watch as Matthew marches out of the studio. As he leaves, he checks to make sure no one is watching, grabs random items from the control room, and runs out.

INT. STUDIO - DAY

Grant enters the room in a huff. He composes himself and puts on a macho face for the production assistants, none of whom pay any attention to him. He approaches Eliza, who is rehearsing the report for the shoot.

GRANT

Hey Eliza, I have a story about an Eastern South American acapella group on campus that I thought would be a good fit for next week's program.

Eliza doesn't answer, too busy going over her questions to herself and scribbling on her script.

GRANT (CONT'D)

I also have an interview with the two people in the Wyoming Student's Association.

Eliza still doesn't notice Grant.

GRANT (CONT'D)

I have an exclusive with Bono from U2.

Eliza continues scribbling.

GRANT (CONT'D)

I have cancer.

Finally, Eliza looks up.

ELIZA

Oh, hey Grant. Did you say something?

GRANT

No. No I did not.

Grant takes a seat across from Eliza.

ELIZA

Sorry, everything's just been so hectic around the studio. I just really want to get this interview right.

GRANT

I haven't seen everyone this focused since Wilderness Club lost their scorpion on set.

ELIZA

Yeah, Lana's really been on everyone's backs recently.

GRANT

God, she's turning this place into The Triweekly Report.

ELIZA

Don't we want to be more like The Triweekly Report?

GRANT

No, Eliza, if I wanted to be more like the Triweekly Report, I'd have Karen assassinated in a car bombing to consolidate my power.

ELIZA

Oh.

GRANT

I just- I don't see why we can't let The News just be The News, you know?

ELIZA

Yeah.

GRANT

We don't need Lana's help to turn things around. You agree, don't you?

ELIZA

Yeah.

Eliza has begun sketching on her script again and is not paying attention to Grant.

GRANT

Are you glad I have cancer?

ELIZA

Yeah.

GRANT

(sighs)

Have you seen Matthew anywhere? I haven't been able to find him all day.

ELIZA

Yeah- Wait, what? Oh! Yeah, no, I didn't really see where he went, but he tweeted that he was going to his trailer earlier.

She pulls out her phone to show Grant, then glances at the screen.

ELIZA (CONT'D)

Wait, no, now it says he's stealing food from craft services. Wait, no, he says he's back in his trailer again.

GRANT

His trailer...? Wait, is he live tweeting all of this? Jesus Christ.

Grant runs off to find Matthew, while Eliza goes back to practicing her lines. She suddenly looks up.

ELIZA

Wait, Grant, is it terminal?

2.4 INT. STUDIO - DAY

PA's are working to set up equipment for the interview. Eliza sits behind the desk. Lana holds a CLIPBOARD and supervises two PA's as they adjust a chair.

LANA

To the right! No, your other right.

The PAs move the chair over a few feet.

LANA (CONT'D)

That's not even in front of the camera anymore. If you want to help on interviews where you can't see the subject, go work for the radio station.

The PAs look at Lana.

LANA (CONT'D)

I wasn't kidding. Go.

Lana gestures to the door. The PAs look at each other and make their way out. As they walk through the door, Grant and Karen enter.

GRANT

Matthew is literally nowhere to be found. He's just been tweeting about his trailer. When has there ever been a trailer?

LANA

I don't know but you better figure it out.

Grant glares at Lana and puts his phone back in his pocket.

GRANT

I'll ask around some more.

He stalks off to a group of PAs. Lana rolls her eyes.

LANA

If he isn't back by the time we mic up Captain we're gonna have a problem. Matthew can't just-

KAREN

Wait, who?

LANA

Matthew. Keep up.

KAREN

No, who are we interviewing?

Lana looks up from her clipboard.

LANA

Captain. The captain of the lacrosse team.

KAREN

No, no, no. We can't do that.

LANA

Why?

Karen begins messing with her hair and avoids looking at Lana.

KAREN

We sort of dated for a while.

LANA

You guys? Really?

Karen ignores her.

KAREN

It didn't end well. He said some things. I might've flushed his airpods-

LANA

I'm sorry?

KAREN

So you need to shut this down. Like, now.

Lana thinks for a moment. She takes Karen's arm and guides her into a nearby chair. Lana sits opposite her.

LANA

I know this must be uncomfortable. We've all been there.

Karen looks up, surprised at Lana's kindness.

LANA (CONT'D)

But at some point we have to ask ourselves what's more important? Being comfortable and happy or the success of a news program with literally dozens of viewers!

Karen stands up.

KAREN

God! You have all the empathy of a garden salad! Oh no.

CAPTAIN, handsome with an athletic build enters with a PA. Lana jumps up and goes to meet him. She shakes his hand.

LANA

Captain! Lana. Thank you so much for being here!

CAPTAIN

No problem.

Eliza sees him from her place at the news desk and gets up to join the group.

LANA

And this is Eliza. It looks like she's going to be interviewing you solo today.

ELIZA

Wait, what?

LANA

We're going to go prep. Karen can help you get set up. You've already met.

Eliza looks over her shoulder as Lana steers her away.

ELIZA

They have?

LANA

They dated.

ELIZA

Them?

Karen avoids eye contact with Captain. He shifts his weight.

CAPTAIN

You look nice.

KAREN

Bite me.

Karen turns on her heel and walks out.

Grant watches her go. Lana and Eliza walk past him.

GRANT  
Hey! What just happened?

LANA  
Little busy here.

Lana and Eliza keep walking. Grant stands alone.

2.5 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

MATTHEW sits in an office chair in front of the sinks, which are filled with snack foods. Next to him is a minifridge with a microwave that is heating up pizza bites. He faces a classroom table that has a computer set up with speakers, laughing as Vine compilations play. Matthew pulls out his phone and begins live streaming.

MATTHEW

Hi everyone! It's your local celebrity news anchor, Matthew, just hanging out in my new trailer.

A toilet suddenly flushes and out of a bathroom stall walks BRYCE, who Matthew eyes with annoyance for r his video. Bryce walks over to an empty sink to wash his hands before sitting in another office chair next to the minifridge.

MATTHEW

Well, if you can't tell my trailer is the men's bathroom on this floor. Not that I get treated as if I deserve anything better but you know what, it's something.

The microwave finishes, and Bryce takes out the pizza roles and begins munching on them.

MATTHEW

(quickly pointing the phone at Bryce)  
This is Bryce, he helped me set up this place. Say hi Bryce.

BRYCE

(stuffing pizza bites into his mouth)  
Hii-

Bryce chokes for a few second, as Matthew sits looking concerned, but not sure what to do. As Bryce finally clears his throat, he grabs a soda from the fridge and quickly drinks it, finally giving a thumbs up to Matthew as he coughs a bit more.

MATTHEW

Well anyways, I'm sure you're all wondering why I'm not at my news show today as usual. Believe me, I'd love to be, it really is my calling, but

I've had enough mistreatment from those people. So, I'm holding out in the comfort of my trailer until they can finally understand how important I am to the show.

Matthew begins to slightly tear up as Bryce looks on in bewilderment. Vines continue to play in the background. Matthew finally shakes his head, refusing to actually cry, and returns to talking to his live stream audience.

MATTHEW

Sorry, I just get very emotional about the things I'm passionate about. But let's move on from that, I'm sure you all remember when I brought up my favorite Vine. So to celebrate me taking a stand against the system I decided to watch some compilations on this new setup.

As Matthew flips his phone camera to showcase the computer and speaker setup, GRANT approaches the outside of the bathroom door, which has a sign reading "Out of Order," with a golden star taped under it reading "Matthew's Trailer."

GRANT

(knocking)

Matthew? Can I come in?

MATTHEW

(Pause)

Ummm sorry the bathrooms closed, I broke all the toilets, you'll have to use the next floor while I wait for maintenance. Sorry.

GRANT

Matthew what? There's literally a sign on the door saying it's your trail-

MATTHEW

Sorry I really need to focus on making sure that, um, no water leaks out of here and ruins the, um, outside floor... yeah, um, sorry.

GRANT

Matt, I literally just heard "Welcome to Chili's," I know you're hiding out in there. Listen, can I just come in

and talk-

(Grant pauses, sniffing the air)  
Wait, do I smell pizza bites?

MATTHEW

Listen, Grant, I'd love to chat but I should really make sure, um, nothing more happens before the um, facilities guy gets here ok?

Grant hesitates outside the door a bit longer, attempting to think of something to say, but ultimately sighs, looking defeated.

GRANT

Well, just know I'm sorry if any feelings were hurt, and I'll be totally willing to talk about it more if you come back.

Grant waits for a second more before finally leaving. Inside, Matthew sits quietly staring at the computer screen as Bryce continues to munch on the pizza bites.

INT. BATHROOM DAY

Matthew and Bryce are lounging in beach chairs and watching *Toy Story* on a laptop they set up in bathroom. They are also sipping on pouches of Capri Sun while they talk.

BRYCE

Wow, the guy who voices Buzz Lightyear is so good in this.

MATTHEW

Oh Tim Allen, yeah he's great! I've actually been thinking of modeling my news voice off his Buzz voice. I has a certain commanding quality that I must capture in my own screen presence!

BRYCE

I had no idea that you were so passionate about *Toy Story*

MATTHEW

I'm really more of a fan of Tim Allen's work. Not many people recognize how good of an actor he is. He's really under under appreciated in the industry.

Bryce nods appreciatively and appears to be s something.

BRYCE

Speaking of under appreciated, do you think that the crew doesn't give us enough credit for the work we do on *The News*?

MATTHEW

Oh absolutely! I work so hard to perfect my screen presence, help Eliza improve hers, and I keep Karen from strangling Lana during rehearsals. Not to mention that it's my responsibility to conduct all the important interviews and segments.

BRYCE

Yeah exactly, people just don't understand how important our contributions are to the success of the show.

If I wasn't around to adjust the lights, run the teleprompter, or turn on the microphones I'm pretty sure the whole production would just...

BOTH

Fall Apart.

BRYCE

Whats worse is that while we work hard Grant, Karen, and Lana get all the credit. I mean, they do a lot for The News but I care about the show just as much as they do.

MATTHEW

I had no idea that someone else on the crew felt the same way.

BRYCE

Me neither

MATTHEW

Cheers

They cheers their Capri Suns and go back to watching the movie.

INT. STUDIO- DAY

Lana stands above Dylan as she attaches a mic to his collar.

LANA

(Quickly)

Alright now just remember not to touch this while we're live. Actually- don't touch it at all. Speak clearly, keep your posture tight, but also natural. The camera is over there-

She points.

LANA (CONT.)

-but don't look at it. Ever. Keep your hands on your lap, don't fidget, it's distracting. And, most importantly, just relax! This is easy, this is fun!

Dylan looks petrified. Lana finishes with the mic, rises.

LANA

All done. Any questions?

DYLAN

Actually, I-

LANA

Great.

(To the crew)

Alright guys, we're going live in three! Matt, Eliza, are you guys ready to-

Lana realizes Matt is gone. She turns on Eliza- *where the fuck is he?*- who shrugs.

LANA

Shit. Ok. Karen get Eliza ready, I'll be right back.

She sprints off. Karen approaches Eliza, who's studying the interview cards.

KAREN

Hey! So I made some last minute changes to the question list. Nothing major, just one or two...tweaks.

She plucks the cards from Eliza's hands, gives her the new

list.

ELIZA

I don't know about this, Karen. Lana told me not to go off script, and she scares me, so...

KAREN

Oh, don't worry, Lana approved everything beforehand.

(To crew)

Is everyone ready?

DYLAN

Hey, Karen, can we talk real qui-

KAREN

Up yours, Dylan.

(Sweetly)

Alright guys, we're going live!

The crew looks at her like she's lost her mind.

KAREN

Rolling in three, two-

CAMERA OPERATOR

Wait!

The camera crew scurries to set up. Karen glares at them.

KAREN

*Rolling in three, two-*

ELIZA

Shouldn't we wait for Lana and-

KAREN

ROLLING IN THREE, TWO, ONE...ACTION

Play opening music. Eliza looks terrified, Dylan taken aback. Alternate CAMERA POV and NORMAL POV for remainder of scene.

ELIZA

Um...I'm Eliza Perry and I'm here with...I'm here with Dylan Farrow; captain of KWU's varsity lacrosse team, and recent state champion. Tell us about your win, Dylan.

DYLAN

Thanks, Eliza. You know, I want to take this opportunity to thank my team, my coach, and of course, god...

Dylan continues to speak as Karen hisses into her mic-

KAREN

Skip to the next question.

Eliza looks taken aback, shakes her head discreetly.

KAREN

Skip. To the next. Question.

DYLAN

...and I mean, it's like some philosopher said, "*No man is an island.*" Am I a hero? Maybe. But can I take all the credit? I mean, who's really to say-

ELIZA

Fantastic. So, Dylan...

She glances at her notecards.

ELIZA

Did you cheat?

Eliza GASPS, looks to Karen, who nods her approval.

DYLAN

I'm sorry?

Flustered, Eliza glances down at the cards for guidance.

ELIZA

How do you sleep at night, knowing that you cheated?

DYLAN

What! I never-- I didn't cheat!

Next card. Eliza presses her hand over her mouth.

ELIZA

(Whispered)

Karen I can't say this.

Karen drags a finger of her throat. Eliza GULPS.

ELIZA

Are you trying to compensate for something, with that...with that big lacrosse stick of yours?

DYLAN

What the hell!?

Karen LAUGHS. Dylan catches her eye.

DYLAN

Oh I- I see what's going on here. You know, maybe if *some people* weren't so *insecure* and *paranoid*, they'd realize that I'm actually a great guy.

KAREN

(To Eliza)

Would a great guy *sleep with my roommate*?

ELIZA

(To Dylan)

Would a great guy...oh god. Would a great guy s-sleep with...with my roommate?

DYLAN

Jessica and I are just friends, Karen!

Karen throws down her ear piece, storms onto set.

KAREN

*Friends* don't take week-long trips to Cancun together!

DYLAN

It was a platonic wellness retreat!

Eliza looks close to tears. The cameraman drops his head in his hands.

The pair faces off over the table, screaming. Then-

LANA

What the hell is going on here!

Cut to: "Technical Difficulties" screen as the show goes off air (think 30 Rock's NBC peacock).

2.8 INT. Bathroom - Day

BRYCE, wearing sunglasses and MATTHEW, wearing a white cotton bathrobe, are deep in conversation, lounging in the bathroom, sipping Caprisun juice pouches with some PAs when GRANT storms in.

MATTHEW

GASP! Grant! How did yo-

GRANT

(Holding up and pointing to an iPhone with Matthew's Twitter feed pulled up)

I, as well as 900 of your closest Twitter followers, know that's your fifth "treat yo self" Caprisun of the day.

(Remarking more quietly to himself)  
God, why did 53 people retweet that...

MATTHEW

(Fumbling to defend himself)  
Well I... of course I tweet my every move, it's what the fans --

GRANT

Enough about the fans Matthew. We've got a serious problem.

MATTHEW

Yes, your inability to let me finish my senten-

BRYCE

(Cutting Matthew off)  
Yeah! Let the man finish his sentences! He deserves some respect around here!

GRANT

Just listen a moment. The interview with the lacrosse captain is falling apart.

MATTHEW

(Grinning, speaking as though he is enjoying himself)  
What? That's terrible.

GRANT

(Frantically explaining)  
Well yes it actually is, the interview questions Eliza asked were weirdly tense and aggressive, then Karen came out of nowhere and started yelling at the Lacrosse Captain, and now Eliza is about to have another panic attack and I'm not really sure --

MATTHEW

(Lets out a large sigh, checks his nails, sips out of the juice pouch)  
Grant, Grant, Grant. I'm bored. What does this have to do with me.

GRANT

(clears his throat, straightens his posture and lifts his chin)  
Matthew, I need your help, we need your help to save the show.

MATTHEW

(still looking at his nails, acts uninterested)

GRANT

Come on Matthew, please. I really value you and without you, I'm not sure we'll be able to make it through this interview, unscathed.

MATTHEW

(Slowly looking up from his nails, makes eye contact with Grant and fully grins)  
Well of course you need me Grant, It's clear I'm the only consistent and functioning part of this show!

SHOT OF THE ROOM FILLED WITH STOLEN ITEMS, A CLOSE UP OF THE OUT OF ORDER SIGN, AND A FLASH OF DOUBT ACROSS GRANT'S FACE

BRYCE

(enthusiastically and ignorant to the irony of Matthew's comment)  
Yeah! Matthew is consistent!

MATTHEW

Ok that's enough Bryce. Grant, of course I will help. I know everyone needs me.

END SCENE

9. INT. STUDIO - DAY

The studio is quiet and awkward as KAREN and EX-BOYFRIEND have been separated. The CREW stands around awkwardly, not sure what to do next. MATTHEW walks in confidently, ready to save the show.

MATTHEW

(Clapping his hands)

Alright everyone! Never fear, Matthew is here! Now let's get this show going!

Matthew turns to the crew and begins giving everyone directions.

MATTHEW

It's just a minor bump in the road, nothing to worry about! Let's get everything ready to go and we'll start up the interview again. Grant and Lana- can you make sure the crew is all set?

Grant and Lana nod and go to talk to the rest of the crew to get things going.

MATTHEW

Eliza- why don't you go check up on Karen really quick and then come back before we start shooting?

Eliza nods, giving Matthew a thumbs up and a small smile. She leaves the studio. Matthew walks toward the ex-boyfriend and extends his hand.

MATTHEW

Hi! My name is Matthew. Thanks so much for coming on our show, I apologize for the little incident earlier.

Ex-boyfriend seems to relax thanks to Matthew's friendly and professional disposition. He smiles and shakes Matthew's hand.

EX-BOYFRIEND

Hey no worries man. Thanks a lot.

MATTHEW

Why don't we get this interview started again?

EX-BOYFRIEND

That sounds great. Let's do it.

Matthew and the Ex-Boyfriend walk back toward the chairs, sit down, and begin to talk.

MATTHEW

So tell me about your big win last week! Scoring in the last 4 seconds of the game? That's amazing!

Grant and Lana are standing off to the side watching the interview. Lana is impressed with Grant's leadership.

LANA

I didn't get a chance to thank you earlier.

GRANT

Thank me? What for?

LANA

For getting Matthew to come back to the show and for being on top of things. I appreciate it.

Grant is a little surprised by this but maintains his composure.

GRANT

No need to thank me. Just doing my job.

LANA

I know. But you're a great leader and this show is really lucky to have you.

Grant looks at Lana, clearly moved, and smiles.

GRANT

Thank you, Lana. That means a lot.

Lana smiles back

LANA

You're welcome.

Grant and Lana share a nice moment for a second and then continue watching the interview.